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## **MEMO**

Date: September 25, 2014

To: Commissioners Court

From: Clarence Daugherty, P.E., Director of Engineering

Subject: Assignment of 2007 Discretionary Bond Funds

There was \$15,000,000 identified in the 2007 County Road Bond Program that was not assigned to specific projects, but was to be used at the discretion of the Commissioners Court. Since that time there have been savings from projects that have resulted in making \$5,900,000 more available, for a total of \$20,900,000. The Commissioners Court directed the Engineering Department staff to solicit projects from cities and rank those projects. Project nominations have been received from cities and the projects have been ranked, using the RTR ranking criteria as a guide.

A basic test was applied to all projects before being ranked. The cities had to confirm that they would provide an equal match to the amount request in order to be considered. Then the projects were ranked using criteria that favored projects that would be ready for construction the soonest, will do the most to relieve congestion, or otherwise improve mobility, and will promote economic development. The ranking also encouraged the spreading of the funds as much as possible.

In addition to the city projects, \$2.0 million dollars was allowed for critical bridge and culvert projects on existing County roads. The projects are recommended from a list of projects submitted by the County Public Works Department.

It is recommended that approximately \$2.0 million dollars be left unallocated for assignment by the Commissioners Court at a later time. There are upcoming needs which are not yet specific enough for assignment at the present but which will be important to address at the right time. Examples of such needs are the local match for right-of-way acquisition on State Highways or Farm-to-Market roads on the County's Thoroughfare Plan and alignment studies for Primary Arterials on the Thoroughfare Plan.

Attached is the list showing the city, project description and limits, amount and results of the ranking for each project. We feel the funds are distributed among the cities as well as can be done with the projects that were submitted. It is recommended that the Commissioners Court approve these assignments of the discretionary bond funds.